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IDENTICAL LETTERS DATED 3 JANUARY 1997 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF TURKEY TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 2 January 1997 addressed to Your Excellency by Prof. Dr. Tansu Çiller, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Turkey.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Hüseyin E. ÇELEM
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

97-00248 (E) 030197

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Annex

Identical letters dated 2 January 1997 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Deputy Prime Minister of Turkey addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

With reference to the letters dated 17 July, 3 August, 7 August, 16 September, 16 October, 7 November, 17 November and 5 December 1996, signed by the Foreign Minister or the Deputy Prime Minister and Acting Foreign Minister of the Republic of Iraq and addressed to Your Excellency and/or to the Secretary-General (S/1996/578, S/1996/626, S/1996/641, S/1996/762, S/1996/860, S/1996/926, S/1996/951 and S/1996/1018), I should like to bring to your attention the following:

The principles and objectives of the Turkish foreign policy towards Iraq have been consistent and fully in line with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations Security Council from the outset of the Gulf crisis. Turkey has stood and continues to stand for Iraq's rights as a sovereign State and neighbour at international forums, while fully respecting all United Nations resolutions and meticulously fulfilling its responsibilities emanating from them, at immeasurable cost. The Government of Turkey vigorously supports the implementation of resolution 986 (1995) to alleviate the sufferings of the people of Iraq.

While standing for the preservation of the independence, sovereignty, political unity and territorial integrity of Iraq, Turkey has actively promoted all constructive efforts for:

- Restoration of peace and stability in the region;
- Enhancement of security in the region;
- Effective combat against terrorism;
- Ensuring the safety of the people of northern Iraq.

We remain committed to these principles.

The Government of Turkey fails to understand the motives that may have guided the Government of Iraq to make such unfounded allegations as stipulated in the aforementioned letters.

Under the present circumstances, Iraq's inability to exercise its authority over the northern parts of its territory continues to provide room for frequent violations of Turkish borders and territory in the form of terrorist infiltrations and activities which result in losses of human lives and damage to property.

As a result of the situation in northern Iraq since the Gulf crisis, for which Turkey bears no responsibility, not only has the Turkish economy suffered

immense negative repercussions, but every day, many innocent citizens of Turkey have lost their lives and suffered incalculable damage because of the violent terrorist attacks coming from Iraqi territory.

Exploitation of northern Iraq as a safe haven by terrorist formations reaching considerable numbers to prepare and launch operations against Turkey undermines Turkish security and constitutes a major threat to peace and stability in the region as a whole. The Government of Turkey is determined to take all appropriate measures with a view to safeguarding its legitimate security interests, defending its borders and protecting its people against terrorism. Turkey reserves the right to seek compensation for the aforementioned loss of life and property.

In view of the foregoing, I cannot but reiterate Turkey's profound disappointment at the attitude adopted by the Government of Iraq.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Prof. Dr. Tansu ÇILLER
Minister for Foreign Affairs
and Deputy Prime Minister of
the Republic of Turkey